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NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1972

California GARDEN

FLORAL MEETINGS

Nov/Dec	A special display of cactus and succulents will be on display at the National City Public Library at the corner of 12th & B in National City. The display will be prepared and maintained by Charles F. Harbison. Public is invited: Mondays through Fridays, 9 AM–9 PM; Saturdays, 9 AM–5 PM.
Nov 18 & Nov 19	Casa del Prado's celebration of its first birthday. Displays will be set up in rooms 101 and 104. There will be displays by various clubs and floral societies as well as a Fall Iris Show.
Nov 21	Floral Association's monthly meeting will be held in room 101 of the Casa del Prado. The program will be a demonstration of floral arrangements presented by Mrs. John Marx. The meeting will begin at 1:30 PM.
Nov 25–26	Organic Gardening Club will hold Open House in the Casa del Prado.
Dec 3	CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD sponsored by San Diego Floral Association will be held in the Casa del Prado, room 101. The displays will be open to the public from 1 PM to 7 PM. The program will begin at 3:30 PM and will feature the Ms. Musicale Quartet.
Dec 3	Quail Botanic Gardens will present CHRISTMAS IN FLOWERLAND on the garden premises from 10 AM to 4 PM. Unusual, hand-made Christmas gifts will be for sale; the proceeds will go toward making the gardens more lovely.

TOURS

Nov 18	Ensenada Trip: $10. Bus will depart from the La Jolla Library at 8:30 AM; Balboa Park parking lot–back of the organ pavillion at 9 AM. Coffee stop and visiting at the Famous Rosarito Beach Hotel. Can lunch at El Rey Sol, world famous French restaurant in Ensenada, visit shops, brouse, etc. in Ensenada.
Dec 2	Descanso Gardens in La Canada: Members $5.50, Non-members $6.50. This trip will provide a chance to buy Christmas decorations, visit the camellia gardens and Japanese teahouse and to view delightful Christmas decorations prepared by the Guild of Descanso Gardens.
Jan 20	Farmers Market & Greystone Park: $7.50. Greystone Park is a former estate owned by the Doheny family until 1956. There are sixteen acres of formal gardens which contain 100 different species of plants. A tour of the mansion which was built during 1925–28 will be included.

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James L. LaMaster

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THE COVER

Cover sketch was done by Marie Hoff Cox who has a Masters Degree in Biology from San Diego State College; she is also active in the Audubon Society.

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CHRYSANTHEMUMS ARE MY LOVE !!!

ALMA ABELL

YEARS AGO, NO ONE could have made me believe that some day I'd be blooming nearly two thousand chrysanthemums each year. Big fat mums were only seen at the florists in the fall in my part of the country. Sometimes a nice boy would buy me one of the silly round things, with a bright blue and orange ribbon around its neck, to wear to a football game. To me they were a nuisance, and I did not like chrysanthemums.

Even years later, when we came to live on a hill in southern California with the ocean just showing through the trees, it would not have interested me in the slightest that this was a perfect place for chrysanthemums. Those first days it was exciting to collect pelargoniums, to raise carnations from seed and pick them any time, to find petunias and the like, all in bloom all year.

The first tiny nick in my dislike came with some slips my husband brought home. He came with a handfull of little sticks he had been given and stuck them in empty spots in two beds. "Those are slips," he told me, "keep 'em wet, will you?" I kept them wet. They began to grow and crowd their places. "What are those things we're growing?" I asked. "Oh, those are little chrysanthemums," was his answer. Early in the fall they bloomed, a lovely spot of orange and yellow, at a time when the garden had very little bloom. I had to admit they were kind of nice, nothing great, but kind of nice. Chrysanthemums weren't so bad.

It was on a cold Sunday in October that I took a step nearer to liking mums: old friends called to say they were at Brookside Park at a wonderful chrysanthemum show. Some of their garden furniture was on display in the garden there. "We think you ought to see this show. We'll leave tickets at the gate, be sure you come." This was before there were freeways ,and we hated the trip to Pasadena but we went. We entered into a big room filled with hugh cut mums. We'd never seen so many nor such big ones. They were very handsome but just too big and too much. When we went out the side door and came on a long beautifully floodlighted pergola, we met a lovely sight. From a high wall hung masses of smaller chrysanthemums; they trailed at least twelve feet, nearly to the ground, and were solid with bloom. It was a fairyland sight. The first time we had ever seen "cascades". It was a little while before we could leave and go on to the gardens where the furniture was displayed. All through the gardens there were all kinds of mums in sunken pots among the shrubs and trees, well lighted and arranged. It was then that we found signs that said "Courtesy of Sunnyslope Gardens". We knew then that we'd have to go see those gardens. It was such a cold night, and they were still beautiful. This was the night I began to like chrysanthemums.

Before we made the trip to find Sunnyslope came Allens. We were sent there by an enthusiastic friend. It may have been the next year that she said, "We have found the most wonderful chrysanthemum place, it isn't far, just over near Pico and Sawtelle, you must go see it." So Sunday morning we were there. We could see an acre of color and rows of mums everywhere. Hear the entrance was a large lath house with people coming and going. We flowed in with the crowd and saw one of the loveliest sights imaginable. At first we just stood in a daze—in that enclosure was every kind, size and color of mum. They were from half inch buttons like ANNETTE to spiders nearly fifteen inches across—all sizes, all shapes, all colors (except blue). People were buying them right and left. All varieties were in pots, but the management would go out and dig you a plant from the field if you wanted. Quickly we counted our money to see what we could buy; pretty hard to decide which ones to take home that first day. In the next week or so, we bought our first ten plants. There are only two of them we still have after twenty some years. One is APPERT—you can still buy this lovely big orange-bronze mum. The other is APRICOT MAY WALLACE, which I doubt you can buy anywhere now. It is one of the favorites in the garden—a china type mum, in an apricot pink. It is not easy to grow, but if you try hard, you can get enough to start each year.

It was much trouble to find room for those first mums. More trouble came as we began going to Sunnyslope and other nurseries and began slipping every one anyone gave us. I'd see what looked like a nice empty place and before I could plant it, my iris crazy husband would have it filled with iris. We made a few new levels on our hill and gradually certain beds were mine, and chrysanthemums began marching across the garden. By now I was crazy about chrysanthemums.

Still, there was more joy waiting for me. In the Spring, I began noticing masses of grass-like little "weeds". They were carefully cleaned up and taken away, but I missed a few. When they grew a little, I saw they were chrysanthemums. I couldn't help wondering what they'd be. By now there was a great variety of kinds in the garden, from a few koreans, spoons to spiders and big mums. That is

when I started a row of seedlings called "my gambling row"—it now gets bigger every year. The bees make some wonderful crosses. There are some duds, but oh, such interesting things. Some of the best flowers in our garden have come from those bee crosses. Things like NEPAL, SIMONE, and LULU. PAULA was the first to come out on the market, years ago we found a row of plants of it for sale at Sears. (We'd given it to Sunnyslope, and some friend from Germain's.) Now it's even in King's catalog, up north. Almost every year, we take a new one to the Sunnyslope in the San Fernando Valley, (Mr. Tashima). Suddenly, one like DRUID (a huge single white) pops up somewhere—Safeway sold it; florists had it; you could meet it almost anywhere. Even though I never sell any of my plants, they have found their way to lots of places. We find that most of our seedlings are easy growers. Some years I plant seed from Japan just to get some big ones. TOM CRAIG is a huge yellow one.

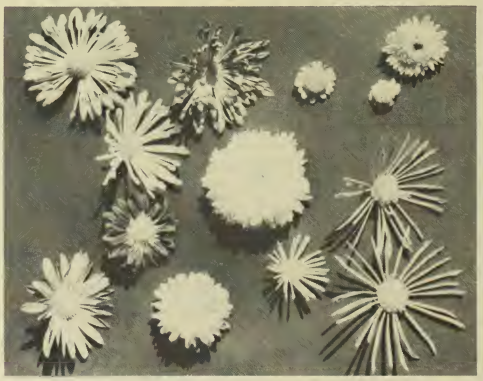
I'd never say chrysanthemums aren't lots of work. The first instructions we read were: "Prepare the beds five or six weeks before planting; cover with four inches of manure, some commercial fertilizer and a little sulpher; turn it over every week and keep well watered." Instead of manure, we use any of the good composts—bags of it. If we have wood ashes we add them with sulpher and fertilizer. To have all the beds empty and ready to fix, every plant must be moved out. The best of each is healed into the back of their bed, to save, and the rest must go. In the Spring, I slip all the poor growers and the ones that are scarce. With nearly two thousand plants there isn't time or room to slip most of them. The good growers have lots of small perfect little plants around the old one. They are just about as good as rooted slips, and are easily pulled off in order to discard the old plant. If I put off planting until May or June, the plants are fresher toward blooming time, with fewer brown dead leaves toward the bottom. These brown leaves always come eventually even with the most well grown plants, but if you don't have too many plants, they can be kept entirely clean. Chrysanthemums need lots to eat; they like a little feeding every month. Since they need spraying often, a liquid fertilizer can be added to the spray. To make the giants in pots, Sunnyslope gives them mild liquid food each week, and disbud heavily.

It amuses me that different friends grow chrysanthemums so differently. With some, it's just little ones that fit anywhere and take little space. With many of our iris friends, my hardy seedlings are first choice. A number of my "pals" grow beautiful plants. They grow them for arrangements and to pick and give away. If there's a place where they can have room, they can just be allowed to go, no tying, no disbudding and a minimum of care. They will still give you masses of flowers to see and pick. Yet, there is always a purist: One friend grows huge flowers, lots of them. They are fed and disbudded to the limit. He wants people to come see them, but to win top honors at the Glendale Show is his greatest aim in life.

We try to show off our favorites in a few long rows, alternating colors, shapes and sizes to make our kind of arrangements. Long rows of the favorite selected seedlings are allowed to fall as they like, and make a handsome back drop for these rows of favorites. Big ones in the rows are tied up and partially disbudded. There are too many to do it well. Still, we've had ALMA ABELL blossoms which attained eleven inches across.

Anyone can have a few chrysanthemums. They can be in pots, against a fence, a row of favorites, or little ones tucked in a border. Start with a well prepared bed in April. In May, plant rooted slips or little plants pulled from around the old ones. Cut them back a few times to keep them from getting too tall—each time less severely and stop cutting in July. Start feeding a few weeks after planting. Spray when there's any sign of bugs and flying things. In September, they will need staking and tying, and the big ones need disbudding. Seed planted in early Spring will come along to bloom that fall with the rest—how well will depend on weather and you. They must be kept moist.

Each October, I marvel as I stand and gaze up at the bloom on our hill. Often their beauty moves me close to tears. How could any one flower have such endless variety or color, shapes and sizes? Little ones, big ones, daisies, scabiosas, spoons, spiders and the match sticks present one mass of flowers. Chrysanthemums are my love.



Various forms of chrysanthemum flowers are (clockwise): scabiosa, match sticks, daisy, spoons; centered around a "footballMum."

The photos on these pages are of some of the author's terrarium and dish garden creations.

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HOW TO MAKE A TERRARIUM OR

MAKING A TERRARIUM and/or a dish garden of your own is an enjoyable and rewarding project. With a few essentials and some imagination, you will find you have created a nicely contained miniature garden.

To start, you must have a container. Large glass bowls of various sizes, shapes and colors suffice nicely for the terrariums. Dish gardens can use just about anything from deep clay dishes to an old cast iron skillet. Use your imagination for the one that suits you, and the location, best.

If you are making a terrarium, you should first decide whether you prefer to use a lid on your container; this decision helps determine the types of plants you can use. If you are planning on using cacti or succulents, do not use a lid, because the constant moisture will make these plants rot.

Now you need to select your plants. Select house plants small enough to fit the container. Try to get a variety of shades, shapes and sizes in the plants which you select for each pot—whether it is a terrarium or a dish garden. It is a good idea to have your container with you while making decisions on which plants to use. This way you can decide how many plants the particular container will hold and exactly what size of plants to select.

You will also need some charcoal chips if no drainage is available. You can purchase the right soil for the type of plants you are using now, and you may wish to include some sort of decoration such as colored stones, driftwood, or a figurine.

Now, you are ready to get down to business.

First, if needed, spread a three-fourths inch layer of charcoal over the bottom of the container. Then, add water to your soil mixture. Squeeze out excess water before placing the soil in the container. To make your terrarium more attractive, you may want to place the soil so that it forms a slope with the highest point being to the back. Dish gardens are attractive when done on a flat plane, but some

DISH GARDEN

DONNA SCOTT

mounds or hills can be employed if the container is large enough. Remember—use your imagination and put part of yourself into this creation.

Now decide where to place the plants. In a terrarium, start with the larger plants in the back and smaller ones in front—especially if the container is to be viewed from one side. Perhaps you will like the taller plants in the dish garden to be located more to the center of the container. To make transplanting easier, you can trim off the excess dirt from the root system. Then, place the plant in the selected location and cover the roots with soil, firming the soil around the roots.

After you have finished planting, choose the location of your decorations and place them accordingly. However, some consideration should have been given to the location before selecting the plants—and possibly the container. For example: You can be successful with a cactus/succulent garden in the full sun of a window, but the same location would not be good for begonias or African violets.

At this time, you should water your little garden. Terrariums: Give only a teaspoon if you are using a lid, a tablespoon if not. You may not need to add water to containers with lids for a few months. If moisture gathers on container sides, remove lid for about one-half hour, then replace. Dish gardens: Water as you would if the plants were in individual containers—hopefully you have not used too large a variety of plants but have selected plants that require similar amounts of light and water. Do not over water plants, especially cacti and succulents, but neither should any of the other types dry out completely.

Your creation will brighten any dull spot in your home and make a wonderful conversation piece. It also will make a wonderful Christmas gift for someone who might particularly appreciate it because a part of yourself goes with the gift.

GIFT IDEAS

KATIE MCREYNOLDS

CHRISTMAS COMES but once a year, but it can last for weeks, months and years—even a lifetime. There is something for everyone on a gift list at a price you can afford when the magic word is "GARDENS". Children? Of course! Girls of all ages love dish gardens or terrariums, and you can make it easy with a phone call to a florist, or be creative by doing your own landscape design. A desert dish garden with cactus can be designed to delight a boy, also. Fish tanks, globes or brandy snifters are the favorite glass enclosures for terrariums, and your plant list is wide and varied: dwarf begonias and African violets for bloom; pothos, sansevieria, philodendron, Wandering Jew, peperomia and dracaena are only a few of the foliage plants. Perhaps best of all, the carnivorous or insectivorous plants with the fascinating names of cobra plant, Venus' flytrap, sundews, pitcher plant are easily obtained from growers in Oregon, New Jersey, or North Carolina. There is also a superb book by Lynn and Gray Poole, INSECT-EATING PLANTS, that is readable and profusely illustrated.

Adults? Here you have no end to the items, because most of them are already hooked on a certain specialty. A new variety, just out, to be shipped at the proper time for wherever in the United States your donee may reside. A card will announce your gift-to-come. No special interest in things that grow? Try sending a bonsai, and you may find you have started a hobby. An apartment dweller with limited space? Look for a cachepot to hold that one plant that can add so much to the decor. Or, find a charming bowl to hold narcissus bulbs in pebbles and water. Or, look for Dutch hyacinth jars for indoor, hydroponic gardening. OR, find a small evergreen and decorate it as a table-top tree—perhaps tiny red velvet bows; perhaps wooden angels or Santas from Germany; perhaps wrapped, brightly-colored hard candies. This is perfect for a nursing home shut-in. You must have one or two gourmets on your list who appreciate nothing more than herbs which are so essential for *haute cuisine*. If your budget allows a little more, why not a dwarf fruit tree? For citrus, useful in kitchen or bar, remember Rangpur lime, Meyer and Ponderosa lemon, Nagami kumquat, Minneola tangelo, a wide variety of oranges, tangerines, Mandarin oranges and grapefruit. These grow well in pots and many of them are valuable as ornamentals as well. Beyond these, there is a full range of peach, plum, apricot, cherry, pear and apple, but some research would be wise on these to see which ones will thrive in that particular area.

Garden accessories are a delight to anyone: unusual rocks or petrified wood; unique containers, pots or tubs; strawberry jars for all manner of plantings; sun dials or solar clocks; stone or welded sculptures; a sun shade or piece of furniture for patio or terrace; an hibachi or barbeque. AND, if you have a real down-to-earth gardener on the list, it's a snap: a great tool you have discovered and couldn't live without.....a new food or insecticide that has worked wonders for you.....and what about a load of sludge if it's a good sized garden? Then if cost is no object, can you imagine anything to be more prized than an outdoor vacuum cleaner?

Then on to those eternal gifts that never, never die—books and magazines. There are fine paper-backs at low prices and, of course, lavishly illustrated ones that resemble art books and are much more useful. So this Christmas think GARDENS and naturally think CALIFORNIA GARDEN.

Terrarium gardens and hydroponic home gardens are fun to plant, and both types make grand Christmas gifts. They are fashionable to use in decorating any home. They are as compatible in an Early American decor as they are in the very most modern interior.

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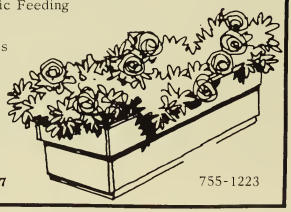

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HALF PAST A CENTURY

IN THE DENSE BRUSH known as chaparral, the red berry of California Holly has always attracted gardeners at first sight. The padres brought it from the foothills and planted it around the missions. Spanish and Mexican gardens included it and so did our early pioneers.

Along with the California Laurel (*Umbellularia californica*) and the elderberry (*Sambucus*), it was even believed by the Indians to possess supernatural powers and was used for healing.

Popularly known here also as Christmas Berry or Toyon, botanically the name is *Heteromeles arbutifolia.* Pronounced "het-er-OM-e-leez, from the Greek for "different apple" in allusion to the fruit being unlike related genera with apple-like fruit; *arbutifolia* means "arbutus leaves." This plant has also been called *Photinia arbutifolia.* (It is to be noted that *H. arbutifolia macrocarpa* from the Channel Islands has larger berries.)

Still, we know it best as California Holly, and so did our magazine fifty years ago. We quote directly from the November 1922 issue in an article entitled, PROTECT OUR CALIFORNIA HOLLY:

"Numerous complaints of ruthless mutilation of our California Holly bushes reach the CALIFORNIA GARDEN almost every day and it is again called to the attention of one and all that it is an offense against the law of the state to pluck holly on public ground and on private land without the consent of the owner.

Here is the Law:

A: Section 384 of the penal code, passed upon at the 1921 session of the State Legislature states that 'Any person, firm or corporation is guilty of a misdemeanor who mutilates or destroys any toyon or Christmas red berry tree growing on public or private land, unless, in case of private land, the owner gives his consent thereto.' "

A.D. Robinson editorialized: "We must unite in protecting the Toyon, first from ourselves and then from others.....On a recent trip we saw the Holly more wonderful than ever before—because the road was bad and we pray that it may rain like the dickens and make it worse. Tempering this fear for the wild bushes was an elation at passing a cultivated hedge of it bordering the road, extremely vigorous with enormous bunches of berries.....It suggested that a movement might be started for the cultivation of our native Holly through the Park and schools.

"Why not inaugurate a Plant-a-Toyon drive? Now is the time to get in seed for all the berries sold on our streets are seed. This is not sentimentalism but good business and we have not had a drive since last month."

Kate O. Sessions was the featured speaker for the November meeting on "Colorful California Shrubs". The December meeting of Floral Association was an afternoon devoted to a showing of berried shrubs and poinsettias in the loggia to the right of the lagoon in the Park. The drive was on, and well coordinated.

Some years later Roland A. Hoyt described this tender native shrub or small tree. "The foliage is a splendid dark green for the year with full-cropping red berries that are held for the winter...and the birds." Flattish clusters of small white flowers having appeared during June and July.

While California Holly appreciates more water, Mr. Hoyt advised growers "not to force it because the pleasant bushiness would be lost in legginess and it would be susceptible to the disfiguring leaf blotch." He further advised spraying to control sucking insects which cause honey dew and subsequently sooty mold.

How many of us today have the California Holly or Toyon in our landscaping? It would be well to look back and plant ahead to assure this beautiful, as well as seasonal shrub, a cherished spot in the sun.

Mr. Robinson made another suggestion as timely now as it was then—"PATRONIZE THE GARDEN ADVERTIZERS"—for California Holly is still a protected plant, although it may be propagated and sold commercially.

NIBBY KLINEFELTER

DECIDUOUS TREES? YES!

HELEN WITHAM

ANNE GALLOWAY, photos

UNLESS YOUR TREES are painted on canvas or cast in metal, their leaves will fall at some time of the year. Even evergreen trees, which have leaves the year round, do not keep their leaves forever. The leaves fall a few at a time throughout the year, but new leaves appear before the old ones fall. The tree is never leafless. Of course, deciduous trees shed all their leaves during a period of two to four weeks, usually in autumn and remain bare throughout the winter. Then, they grow a whole new crop of leaves in the spring. Here in California, a few kinds—such as the native buckeye and elderberry—may be bare of leaves by midsummer. They leaf out again in early winter, the beginning of our growing season.

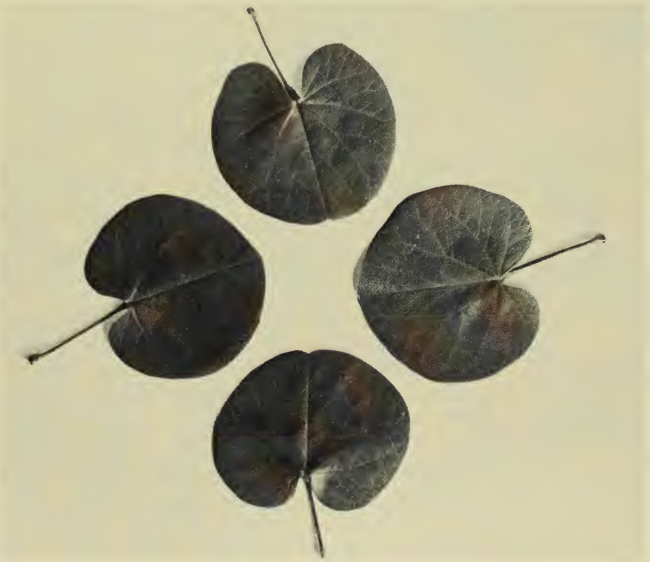
The evergreen group includes almost all needle-leafed trees: pine, fir, hemlock, yew, spruce, true cedar; many trees having scale-like leaves: juniper, cypress, incense cedar; and some trees with larger, broad leaves such as magnolia, rubber, avocado and eucalyptus. In cold climates where these broad-leafed kinds can not survive, the word "evergreen" refers almost exclusively to the needle-leafed or scale-leafed ones.

In southern California, where we can easily cultivate a great variety of broadleafed evergreens as well as the other kinds, we do just that, and our gardens tend to become monotonously green. By going this way, we avoid the problem of disposing of great heaps of dry leaves in the fall. BUT we also miss out on seeing traceries of bare limbs against our blue winter skies, and the sudden unfolding of new leaves in spring. Does anyone get excited about new leaves appearing on a pine or eucalyptus?

The way to have the best of these two worlds, whether in a patio or in a park, is to plant the smaller deciduous trees—perhaps only one in the patio, masses of them in large areas. In warmer parts of the state, the real eye-stoppers, head-turners and the ones that provide dazzling bursts of bloom, are mostly flowering fruit trees: peach, plum, cherry, apricot, or nectarine. The flowering crabapples are for cold winter places; so are the cherries with one exception: *Prunus campanulata*, the Taiwan Cherry. Among the peaches are "flowering-fruiting" varieties that bear delicious fruit as well as spectacular flowers.

Foliage of the flowering fruits varies from handsome to so-so.

Photo below illustrates the foliage of the deciduous Western Redbud which grows from twelve to thirty feet in height.



Plums have shiny leaves of green, bronze, red, or purple-black. They may be rounded, vase-shaped, or erect. Height may be ten to twenty feet; the choice is wide.

These trees are usually available as bare-root plants from November to February. This is the best time to buy and set them out—best for the plants and best for you. A bare-root plant is much easier to get into or out of a car, into your garden and into its planting hole than the same plant in a five gallon can, and the bare-root is less expensive.

Other small deciduous trees that cover themselves with flower glory are the Pink Flowering Locust, *Robinia*, and the summer blooming Crape Myrtle, *Lagerstroemia* (away from the coast—this one needs hot summers and cold winters). In the same climate range as the latter, the Chinese Pistache, *Pistacia chinensis*, is a plain green tree in summer, but a rounded mass of fire and flame in October. Nothing else can match it if the climate is right; it will glow even on the desert.

For bright fall color right down to the coast, there is *Liquidambar*. Choose your plant in the fall to get the leaf color you prefer. After the bright leaves have fallen, you will enjoy its furrowed bark, spiny balls of seeds and cork-winged twigs.

Do you know the Western Redbud, *Cercis occidentalis*? It is another tree for all seasons: slender branches with smooth shiny bark in winter, clusters of half-inch long flowers in spring (if lupines are bluebonnets, these are rose-purple bonnets). Just as the last flowers open, bronze leaves unfold. These turn to blue-green and make a pleasing contrast to other garden greens. Finally, they turn to yellow or pale red for a few days before they fall. Underneath the tree, they look like disks of coppery brown.

Foliage of the Southern California Black Walnut: When moved from the wilds into the garden, this tree can attain twenty feet in height.

You may see large thickets of redbud south of Julian along the road to Cuyamaca Lake, and on Sunrise Highway about two miles east of its junction with S 79.

For those who like to use the uncommon just for the sake of having something interesting and different, the little Southern California Black Walnut is a good choice. Yes, I said little—your great-grandfather would never have made chests and beds, or timbered his barn, with planks from a wild walnut from anywhere in the southern half of the state. Even in northern California the black walnuts do not grow nearly so large as the eastern walnuts.

Our wild walnut assumes an ancient look at an early age, owing to its rough dark bark and irregular branching pattern. Trees vary from upright to widely spreading with branches drooping to the ground. Catkins are two or three inches long; fruits are roundish, covered with a smooth green husk in summer which turns black like that of any other black walnut when the nut ripens.

None of the trees mentioned here will keep you shoveling leaves, because they do not have that many leaves. Their leaves, or leaflets, are small and easy to rake or sweep up. They make a neat mulch if left where they fall, or can be drifted under other shrubs and trees. Let's get away from the idea that we must have everything evergreen just be cause we CAN have everything evergreen. Let's go deciduous here and there.

THE ALL-AMERICAN CRANBERRY

ROSALIE GARCIA

WHAT IS MORE AMERICAN than turkey and cranberry sauce? The combination goes back to the first harvest feast of our Pilgrim forefathers. The Indians brought them baskets of the tart red berries which they boiled with maple syrup. They liked them and continued eating them although they did not know they were full of vitamins and minerals which were lacking in their winter diets. I have not discovered what the Indians called them, but the story goes that at the time of blossoming, the stem, calyx and petals were fancied to resemble the neck, head and bill of the crane. It is also possible that real cranes walked around in the bogs where the berries developed and ate them. Anyway, they were crane berries and are now cranberries. They appear in our markets now packed in one-pound cellophane bags.

Some may remember when markets displayed them in bins, and one could scoop up what she wanted into a paper sack. They were so cheap that cranberry sauce was almost a staple on the winter tables of urban families. The country people had many home grown fruits with pleasant tartness, so that cranberries were used primarily for Thanksgiving and Christmas as a traditional treat. They were cheap enough that children strung them in long strands to festoon the Christmas tree. They kept well and added color and a nice fruity aroma along with the apples, oranges, peppermint sticks and popcorn. That old fashioned tree was so full of edibles that a final rite in taking it down was a party where one could eat all the decorations and save the cranberries to cook into sauce. We had a heritage of conservation and recycling.

Vaguely we knew that cranberries came from "up North" somewhere and were exotics to us. Massachusetts originated the commercial culture, for its inhabitants were used to the wild berries, and they grew naturally in so many natural bogs. That state is still the headquarters of many of the big commercial companies and is the nation's largest producer.

The cranberry is a trailing species of the genus *Vaccinium* of the heath family, *Ericaceae*, which includes the blueberry, azalea, rhododendron and huckleberry. It is native from Nova Scotia south to the Carolinas and west to Minnesota and Arkansas. It is now cultivated commercially in Massachusetts, Wisconsin, Washington and Oregon. It will grow anywhere there are cold winters, abundant water and the necessary acid soil that is at least three feet deep. The natural bogs are flat low spaces where acid humus has collected and has natural drainage that is flooded by frequent rains. Artificial bogs have been constructed by fencing flat acreages with wood or stone walls, filling with acid humus and sand and letting the soil mellow for a year or so. Cuttings are planted, flooded and kept sort of muddy for three to five years; in this time the plants grow to one to three feet tall while floating on water. Leaves are tiny, evergreen, oval and less than one inch long. Plants form a kind of mat from which small four lobed rose-tinted blossoms appear in June and July.

The harvest runs from September through October at which time we begin to find them in the markets. Smaller firms flood their bogs and rake off the ripe berries with special rakes. The larger companies flood and drain off the berries into troughs from which the berries fall onto belts that cull them into sizes. They are kept in warehouses and packed into bags, or sent to juicing and canning factories.

Although there are 130 species of cranberries, we know of only two that are important: The large *Vaccinium macrocarpum* and the small *V. oxycoccos*. The large one is native to North America. It is from this wild species that many varieties have been developed and are grown commercially in the millions of bushels in the United States and Canada. The small one is usually called the European cranberry but is also native to North America as well as in Northern Europe and Asia. We are familiar with this small wild variety which is made into perserves and sold as lingonberry. It is also widely appreciated by the Scandi-

navians, and the lingonberry sauce is served on crepes as a dessert.

Evidently the wild animals were fond of this small wild berry, for we find it called cow berry, deer berry and fox berry. Many of these wild varieties grew on bushes much like our wild huckleberries.

In the last ten years, cranberry production has multiplied tenfold, because the juice, either alone or in combination with other fruit juices, appealed to the public taste. Its jeweled ruby tint is eye catching; its tart taste and allergy-free reaction has made the breakfast fruit juice—which was usually orange—a wider selection. The millions who could not drink the orange products are not so allergic to the cranberry. It has more of the vitamin A than nearly any other juice and is equal to orange juice in other vitamins and minerals. Those who are influenced by that snobbish TV commerical with the pompous Englishman who has switched to cranberry really benefit by the change. The juice makes a good base for punch and alcoholic drinks. Cranberry wine may even put Dago Red in second place.

Although there are many smaller companies in commercial production which grow many varieties of cranberries, Ocean Spray dominates the market by having the big grocery chains for customers. We commonly see only the one brand.

Promotion by the big companies has increased the use of cranberries so that recipes for them abound for breads, cakes, pies, jellied salads, custard, ices, mixed with vegetables and other fruits. Those with imagination can devise hundreds of combinations. A cranberry alone is sour and crisp and not a fruit that one eats in the manner that most other berries are enjoyed.

The old stand-bys are cranberry sauce and cranberry-orange relish. Recipes for these are printed on every Ocean Spray package. The sauce is cooked. The trick is to use less sugar, and heat the berries. Do not really cook them; I prefer the method of cooking for five minutes, the two cups of water and only one heaping cup of sugar. Then, dump in the four cups of cranberries—that's a one-pound package—and set the kettle on "Simmer" for twenty to thirty minutes. The berries will mostly stay whole, but are cooked. The sauce is jellied and the tartness intact.

The cranberry-orange relish will keep in the refrigerator indefinitely and adds zest to meats as well as mixes with other milder fruits like bananas and canned peaches and pears.

I like to keep another jar of cranberry mincemeat which one can mix in a batch of cranberry sauce:

1 lb. raisins
4 c. chopped apple
1 c. chopped nuts
4 c. cranberry sauce
¼ c. candied orange peel
1 c. lemon juice

Mix and put in refrigerator. If used in a pie, add four tablespoons of melted butter.

A festive and fancy dessert offering at the Christmas buffet is Frosted Cranberries. One may use any spice, but one that will give a most exotic flavor is ground cardamom.

1 egg white beaten until frothy
3 cups sugar
1 lb. fresh cranberries
1 tps. ground cardamom

Combine cardamom and sugar. Rinse cranberries and dry of paper towel. Pour cranberries into egg white and dip out, a few at a time with a slotted spoon and roll in the sugar. Let dry on a shallow pan at room temperature and store in tight fitting container. When these are placed in a pretty bowl with a sprig of holly, everyone will be tempted to try one.

Cranberries stay in the markets four or five months, because one of their best qualities is their long keeping property. They freeze well and can be frozen simply by putting the package from the market into the freezer. Cans of sauce and jelly and bottles of juice are always available.

One can even have a private ornamental bog in southern California by cutting open some cranberries and planting them in a tub of acid mud. Flood it with water occasionally. There will be a mass of stiff, crisp tiny green leaves, and after a few years, they may have some tiny pink blossoms. In order to produce berries, the plants would need to be refrigerated. A lot of trouble, eh? Wouldn't a nice house plant be less trouble and just as pretty?

Let's allow our "Up North" horticulturists do this one thing which we can not do so well—they have the cold and the water.

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THE JAPANESE IRIS

Hirao Shūichi

This is a photograph of IMMACULATE GLITTER, a Japanese iris variety which was hybridized in the USA. This photograph, and the text on this page, are extracts from the new book THE JAPANESE IRIS, edited by Kuribayashi Motojiro and Hirao Shuichi, published by the Asahi Shimbun Publishing Company, Tokyo. The book is a luxury volume, massive in size, with 346 color plates and with deluxe binding. The complete text and all photo captions are printed both in Japanese and in English. The book is highly recommended as a collector's item, as a publisher's masterpiece, and as the most comprehensive reference work which exists on the subject of Japanese irises.

A frequent misconception concerning the Japanese iris is that it is a bog plant and that flooding is necessary in its cultivation. In Japanese iris gardens, running water is usually to be seen when the flowers are in bloom, which creates the mistaken impression that the Japanese iris grows in water, but in fact the water is there for its aesthetic effect, and flooding is not necessary. The Japanese iris can be grown without difficulty anywhere that is congenial to ordinary perennials. It prefers an acid soil, ideally around p.H. 5.5. There should be rather more moisture than for ordinary perennials. It is extremely resistant to cold, but a ground temperature approaching 30°C during its period of development in the summer will hinder proper growth. Like other irises, it is fond of virgin soil, and growth becomes poor if it is left for too many years in the same spot. Since the season when it flowers is rainy in Japan, the rhizome is divided immediately after flowering and replanted elsewhere. It invariably flowers again the next year, and it is commonly the year following this that sees the blooms at their finest, Another two or three years, and they deteriorate, so division and replanting becomes necessary again. This process may also be carried out in the autumn. It must be carried out annually if the plants are grown in pots. Replanting in the spring should be avoided, though it is common in the West, where transplanting immediately after flowering is sometimes difficult.

The commonest error among beginners in planting the Japanese iris is to give it fertilizer at the initial stage. Once the plant has taken root, however, it likes even more fertilizer than other irises. In raising from seeds, the seeds should be gathered in the autumn and sown immediately, taking care to protect the seedlings from frost during the winter. The seeds may also be sown in the spring, in which case they will, provided they are well tended, flower in the summer of the following year. Recently, a tetraploid variety has been produced, as well as a hybrid with *Iris pseudacorus* as its pod parent. The Japanese iris promises to develop over a still wider field in the near future.

EUPHORBIA LATHYRUS

KATIE MCREYNOLDS

THERE IS AN OLD wives' tale that the poisonous, caustic, milky juice of *Euphorbia lathyrus* will keep moles and gophers out of your garden. Hence, its common names of Gopher Plant and Mole Plant—though I have known *E. veneta* to be sold under these trade names as well. A third name in the vernacular, Caper Spurge, seems to have been dropped from usage, at least in these parts.

This is one of the hardy, herbaceous species of the large and varied spurge family. It thrives in any good soil, tolerates neglect, is suitable for use in border or rock gardens and combines well with other succulents and gray-foliaged plants. A native of Europe, it has become naturalized in North America and grows easily from seed.

The blue-green leaves are lanceolate and grow at right angles to the stem and each other. The striking chartreuse flowerheads are really colored bracts, growing around the center of true flowers which are insignificant. They appear in winter/spring in flattish umbels and soon become seeds. Stems die back at this time and should be removed.

Some related varieties, seldom seen but equally dramatic, are *E. bigandulosa* (stunning container plant) *E. myrsinites* (good nodding over rocks or wall) and *E. veneta* (effective in large borders). All of these are lovely plants that make a welcome addition to any garden. Yet, it is well to remember that the milky juice of *Euphorbiaceae* can produce a severe rash on sensitive skins and be a dangerous irritant in eyes or open cuts.

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NIXON'S SAN CLEMENTE RESIDENCE

THE PRESIDENT'S SAN CLEMENTE residence is a fourteen room house with seven out buildings. known locally in southern California as the Old Cotton Estate. It was built in 1925 by Henry Hamilton Cotton, a California industrialist. The property includes 350 feet of ocean front.

The main house has five bedrooms. Each bedroom has its own bath, living room, sitting room, formal dining room, pantry, kitchen, service porch and two storage rooms. The President has a library-study on the second floor–the only second floor room of the home.

The house is of early California Spanish architecture. It is all white stucco with a red tile roof. The overhangs on the porches and eaves are of a dark umber color.

The house is situated around a courtyard with a fountain in the middle. The fountain has extensive Spanish file decor. The floorplan was designed so that the living room, sitting room, master bedroom and dining room all have views of the ocean. The President's study also has a view of the ocean.

The house is located on a grassy knoll and is surrounded by many Spanish tile walkways. There is a circular driveway. On the side of the circular driveway away from theocean is the guest house containing two bedrooms, one bath and a sitting room. In addition, there is a caretaker's house, a five car garage and three small storage buildings.

The Cotton Estate was purchased by the President from the heirs of Henry Hamilton Cotton, the principal heir being Lionel Ogden. The entire plot of land totals twenty acres. The President personally purchased approximately five acres of this property, those containing the house and most of the out buildings, for $340,000. The remainder of the property will be sold to a compatible buyer.

As indicated in the White House announcement regarding the President's purchase of his San Clemente home, the ultimate purchaser of the additional property might well be the Richard Nixon Foundation. However, that determination has not yet been made. The Richard Nixon Foundation will be a non-profit, non-stock corporation under the laws of the State of California.

The President has undertaken repair but little remodeling of the main house. The building has been painted and some of the windows have been enlarged. The principle portion of the interior has been painted white, but some of the rooms have been wallpapered. A swimming pool has been built with scallops at each end to keep the Spanish style decor. An existing Spanish pavilion nearby, which is enclosed on three

sides, will be used as a shaded area by the swimmers.

When Mrs. Nixon was considering the decorations for the San Clemente home, when she visited here in June, she said she wanted the house to have an open country feeling. To achieve this she has worked with interior decorators Cannel and Chaffin of Los Angeles.

The interior of the house has been decorated with Spanish and French provincial furnishings and wall-to-wall carpeting has been laid throughout. The living room has been done in shades of yellow and white with accents in blue. All accessories in the living room except for two lamps are from the President's former New York apartment. The dining room furniture was also shipped from the New York apartment, together with all of the accessories in the dining room. The wooden beams which support the ceiling of the house have been painted off-white to give a more open feeling.

The main color of the President's study is blue. It has a blue rug with a large yellow ottoman and chair, and the original blue and green Mexican tile remains between the shelves of the bookcases.

SAN SIMEON

HEARST'S ENCHANTED HILL

JEAN COLLINS

DURING A RECENT VISIT to California, we had the great privilege of being taken to see the famous State Historical Monument of Hearst, San Simeon.

This delightful spot, known as The Enchanted Hill, has a setting against the St. Lucian Mountains, on a hillside 1,600 feet above the Pacific Coast. The major part of the 123 acres is landscaped, and gardens, terraces and pools surround the magnificent Hispano-Moresque mansion, La Casa Grande.

The creator/designer of this grand castle was William Randolph Hearst, only son of the late Senator George Hearst and Phoebe Apperson Hearst. William Hearst was the head of a large ranching, business, film and publishing empire. He began building this new home in 1919, shortly after the death of his mother.

The Hearst Corporation, with the approval of the family of the late William Hearst, donated this unique property to the state in 1958, seven years after his death on the understanding that it be preserved as a memorial not only to the late William Randolph Hearst but also to his mother, Phoebe Apperson Hearst.

We entered the five mile driveway from the Pacific Coast Highway and wound up green hillsides to the castle above. On these hills, zebras and gazelles were contentedly grazing among the sheep and cattle. These exotic animals remain from the private zoo which once existed on the estate.

The upper part of the driveway was flanked by trees: California live oaks, acacias, eucalypti, Monterey pines, citrus and quince trees—intermingled with the colourful brilliance of the golden Spanish Broom.

There are no conducted tours of the gardens as yet, but we were told that sometime in the future there would be tours of this part of the estate. However, conducted tours of the castle take place daily the year round, except Christmas and Thanksgiving.

We were welcomed on arrival by Dottie Boulian, a Landscape Artist at The Enchanted Hill and wife of one of the wardens. Mrs. Boulian, who has recently written THE ENCHANTED GARDEN OF HEARST CASTLE, personally showed us around the garden and gave us a detailed historic outline of the many features of the grounds surrounding the castle.

William Hearst found the task of landscaping this barren hilltop was not an easy one. Natural springs in the mountains provided the water supply, but this had to be piped a distance of five miles. Many of the trees and plants required a richer soil than the poor soil on the hill, so more nourishing topsoil had to be brought in from other areas.

Originally on this hilltop site the only native trees were the live oaks, *Quercus agrifolia,* and the bay trees. Most of these oaks, estimated to be between 200 and 400 years old, were left intact, and the castle was built around them. The large oak trees are numbered for the sake of location in case disease attacked them. We were shown one example of tree surgery performed

Lower terrace view of the Italian Cypress purchased from Mr. Claasen and moved to the Enchanted Hill as adult specimens.

In May 1972, Jean and Hec Collins of New Zealand visited San Diego before driving to Portland, Oregon to attend the American Iris Society National Convention. Since they maintain a commercial nursery in their homeland, they were interested in touring gardens and nurseries enroute. This story is a recount of the most impressive garden they saw.

on one of these (No. 14). The tree had started to rot in the centre, the rotten part had been scraped our and the cavity filled with cement and bolted—much like a dental operation on a very large scale. The bark is now starting to grow over the cement, and after a number of years, the wound will be completely healed.

One particular live oak (No. 7), which is estimated to be 400 years old and is approaching 100 feed in height, was growing on the site where it was proposed to build the large billiard room. Instead of slaughtering the tree, it was moved forward. This mamoth operation was a slow process that took a year and a half to complete. The roots of the tree were boxed in by cement casing eight feet deep and thirty feet in diameter. They then under-cut the tree by hiring miners to dig underneath it, put it on rollers and moved it to its new site.

Stately palm trees (*Washingtonia filifera*) were a feature of this garden. All these palms were transferred to the estate from the grounds of the University of California in Berkeley after the Berkeley fire in 1923. These very palms had originally been given to the university by Phoebe Apperson Hearst. They were brought down by barge, unloaded at the pier at San Simeon, and transplanted in the grounds of the castle. One palm tree we were shown had had tree surgery. The dead heart had been removed and a metal bar had been inserted to hold the sides together. This particular invalid was the Washington filifera or California fan palm. The Mexican cousins were the *Washingtonia robusta* (Mexican fan palms).

Italian cypress were brought to the property as large trees. Each year these are trimmed with the aid of a cherry picking machine. These trees had originally been growing on the property of a Mr. Claasen at Pasa Robles, who had planted them along his driveway. One day William Hearst was passing and saw these trees. He offered Mr. Claasen $10 each for the thirty-two trees, and also said he would pay for their care until they were moved to the castle. This was in the days of the depression, and the offer must have seemed worthwhile to Claasen—he accepted. The trees were eventually moved—a gigantic task as each tree with the earth around its roots weighed approximately five tons. Most of the other trees planted in the garden were well grown specimens which had been planted out of five gallon cans.

(This article, which is in two parts, will be continued and concluded in next issue.)

Facade of the Casa Grande as viewed from Neptune's pool.

Artistic trimming of lantana gives the impression that the plant is growing out of the ancient sarcophagus.

Birthday Greetings

By ADA PERRY

Our San Diego Floral Association celebrated its 65th birthday in October. This polishes off the biggest half of the 20th Century. The 100 mark is the year A.D. 2007.

The year A.D. 2009 will be the century mark for the Floral Association's magazine, California Garden.

In case all this longevity bothers you, just think of the garden loving people and officers and editors who've marched through the years with the organization. There's coherence for you.

Gardening may change, may take many forms, but the love of it goes on and on.

There are many different garden organizations in San Diego now. You mire down counting between 30 and 40 and up pops another one.

The first of them all is listed in the phone book as S D Floral Association, Casa del Prado Bldg., Balboa Park, with no spacing and no punctuation of course. Who needs cross word puzzles for sharpening wits with our handsome telephone directory around?

The phone number of the S. D. Floral Association is 232-5762 and you'll be answered Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. from the headquarters in Casa del Prado. If you goof and call that commercial "Floral" listed just above, all right buy the bouquet, and try again.

In the Floral Association, the "floral" covers a lot of territory.

There's the bi-monthly California Garden magazine with news of flower shows, meetings, index list of garden clubs, local articles and pictures and tour news.

The Floral Association bus tours are famous by now for sight seeing in agreeable company. The tour to Ensenada takes place Nov. 18, a popular repeat. There are one or two tours every month.

There are classes on flower arranging every Monday, open to the public for a small fee.

The Floral Association's own meetings are on the third Tuesday every month.

On the second Sunday of November, the 12th, another popular repeat takes place, the winter arrangements sale with Thanksgivng and Christmas themes, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"There's always something happening at the Floral Association," remarked its president, Mrs. Louis Kulot, after proving the case with all that information.

I had come to look at the library at the headquarters in Casa del Prado. It is a fabulous assortment of garden books collected over the years and is for loan to members. But the public is welcome to come in and look and study.

By the way, the Floral Association headquarters in Casa del Prado may be a little tricky to find the first time. There is a stand sign but what you see on the handsome door is La Sala, Senior Citizen Salon, room 105. Just open the door and go on down th hall past the salon. Entrance to the Floral Association is on your left.

After I got in, looking at the prospectus for the winter arrangements sale Nov. 12, took awhile since there were great boxes of dry material from Floral Association treasurer, Dr. George Bremner, framed shadow boxes, dressing table arrangements and some casual dried bouquets such as yellow yarrow, artichoke and banksia and manzanita, protea and magnolia.

It's hard to tear away from a third dimension shadow box of treated and dried pansy, rose, fern, African violet and jasmine. Or mrom a tiny tinted and dried dressing table bouquet of double marguerite, bells of Ireland and miniature zinnias. The boxes of dried manzanita, pine cones, ferns, grasses, mullein and dock were from a cabin lot in the mountains.

But the books, the books!

There are 56 or so large volumes of The Garden, an English illustrated weekly journal of horticulture in all its branches going back to 1870. Glimpsed color plates of epiphyllums, orchids, apricot daffodils. This and many other volumes were donated by the late Miss Kate Sessions and Miss Alice Greer.

Luther Burbank, his methods and discoveries illustrated with colored photographs in 12 tooled leather covered volumes, donated by Miss Mary Marston, covers more than 100,000 experiments from his original field notes.

There are two volumes in French, Les Plants, printed in Paris in 1870, J. Rothschild, editor. Saw pics of maranta and coleus.

Spanking new garden books are sent in by publishers and are carefully reviewed by Floral Association member, Theresa Karas Yianilos, in the California Garden magazine. Yes, Jerry Baker's "Plants Are Like People" is among them.

New, from the Graystone Press, but donated by Loretta Crocker are 14 volumes, Unabridged Illustrated Encyclopedia of Gardening, edited by T. H. Everett of the New York Botanical Garden.

Donated by Mrs. Harry Wegeforth is the volume of photography, Great Botanical Gardens of the World, text by Edward Hyams and photography by William MacQuitty, first American edition 1969. Botanical gardens in Europe, North and South America, Japan, USSR and the tropics are shown.

Mrs. Kulot contributed Flowering Trees of the Caribbean and the Art of Flower Arranging by Beverly Nichols. The latter book shows arrangement from the days of the pharaohs! It shows them in the paintings of the old masters and then goes on to Japanese and modern. I was astounded by pics of Third and Fourth Century gold wreaths. Then came a Tiffany & Co. modern, homage to a cabbage!

It was a gold alloy, vermeil, said Mrs. Kulot. Other books from her if my notes were correct, are the World in Your Garden by National Geographic showing where our plants come from in color and The Pictorial Encyclopedia of Plants and Flowers — from the beginning of time.

Mrs. Martin Firth, Floral Association vice president, donated the Masters Book of Ikebana. Peg Kendall, member, presented a book of The Art of Arranging Flowers, a complete guide to classical Ikebana from Ikebana International, as a 65th birthday present.

From Alice Heyneman, member, is Redout et Son Temps with a folder of 12 marvelous plates of illustrations. Also from her is The Seasons in a Flower Garden, with poetry at the beginning of each chapter which may "send" you like it does Helen Claydon.

Two more books in the library are The World Is My Garden — Travels of a Plant Explorer, by David Fairchild which made George Kempland of the Balboa Park staff whoop with joy; and Random House Unabridged Dictionary from Sam Hamill, an ultimate in publication necessities.

You know, following that 65-year-old Floral Association around for half a day can wear you out!

Reprinted from the San Diego Union, October 22, 1972

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

JO GRAY

"WHAT! THAT'S NOT A GERANIUM, that's *Malva moschata.*"

"No, no," he figuratively patted me on the head, "see the seed head, like a crane's bill, that's the signature of geraniums."

My mentor was a knowledgeable and expert horticulturist who visited me not long ago, and while we were poking about in my upper forty, he bent over a low growing little plant which springs up all over that area and said, "Oh, I see you have the coconut geranium."

I know that I bought mallow seed a number of years ago, but after he left, I came in and furtively looked up what Helen Van Pelt Wilson says about coconut geranium. She describes my plants perfectly—but what became of the mallow?

What's in a name indeed. I've heard those dainty milk-blue flowers of the Tritelia bulb called something with "skunk" in it. They already have had their name changed to Ipheion for some unaccountable reason; the same one no doubt which changed *Iris stylosa* to *Iris unguicularis*. Southernwood, whose baptismal name is *Artemisia abrotatum* has several nicknames as well: Lad's Love, Old Man, Maiden's Ruin are a few of them. How engaging the "little" names are, but whatever you call it, it is an exceedingly handsome plant with soft ferny foliage which used to be dried to use among stored furs and woolens. The variety Camphoratum smells quite strongly of camphor which makes it a natural to be used for the same purpose. It flowers in the late summer on stems which seem to shoot out during the night with tiny buttons which dry nicely for small arrangements.

The romance of old custom and old time is in a name. Gilliflower and Sops-in-Wine conjure up the ghosts of the "taffety" gowned ladies who rustled down the garden paths at Hampton Court and Windsor wearing little spicy clutches of the flowers in their bodices. We call them carnations and pinks, and they were very popular in Elizabethan days.

Butter-and-Eggs is a reminder of long dusty country roads where small girls in sun bonnets picked these little snapdragon-like wildflowers which are cousins to *Linaria* or Toadflax. What is in that name—Toadflax? There are almost enough endearing and provocative names to fill a book, many of them with variations. Take Johnny-Jump-Up—which we are told was the original pansy, Heart's-ease. It has thirteen names. Ladies' Delight is my preference to all of the others. Although, Three-Faces-Under-a-Hood and Jump-Up-and-Kiss-Me are pretty good, too! The color and shape of the pods cause *Lunaria* to be named after the moon and was used for charms and spells. It is also known as White Satin and Honesty; children sometimes call in Money-seed or Money-in-Both-Pockets.

At Christmas time, we are filled with that dear nostalgia which seems to link us personally to the ancient legends and customs. We hear the old tales over and over again yet never tire of them. There are two stories about flowers which were given to the Christ Child—really they are the same story with different flowers and different locations. One is about the Christmas Rose (which isn't a rose at all but belongs to the Buttercup family, *Ranunculaceae*) which an angel commanded to blossom for a child, weeping because she had no present to take to the Babe. I expect it was this same compassionate angel who saw the little Mexican girl on her way to church, desolate because she had no gift to put on the altar for the Child. She was told to pick up an armload of twigs from along the road. By the time she reached the church, she had her arms full of poinsettias.

Rosemary has long been used for decoration at Christmas, and we remember the little story involving this plant and Mary's cloak: While on the flight to Egypt, she sat down to rest and threw her blue cloak over a Rosemary bush. When she rose to continue her journey, the white blossoms had changed to blue.

The holly, ivy and mistletoe which we employ so lavishly for Christmas decorations have legends which reach far back beyond the Christian era, but because people are reluctant to give up loved and familiar customs, their use was incorporated into our Christmas festivals.

"What's in a name? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

*****

now is the time

—A Cultural Calendar of Care from our Affiliates—

BONSAI SOCIETY

Masao Takanashi

Now is the time

to repot flowering quince and Japanese apricot. Trees having small root systems must be treated very carefully.

to repot with standard soil mix: 4 parts sand, 3 parts soil (good top soil), 1 part peat moss, any other organic matter.

to check those plants not repotted in spring—be sure to do it now. Do not repot the deciduous trees.

to fertilize for trunk and root development—using food high in phosphorus and potassium.

CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Robert C. McNeil

Now is the time

to feed your camellias lightly with 2-10-10, or 0-10-10 every two weeks. This will fatten their buds to bloom in February and March.

to apply the gibberellic acid to a few buds once a week—IF you plan to enter the "GIB" sections of shows in the spring.

to save the blooms from being "sawed" by the rough edges of leaves, pin the leaves back away from the buds with old spring-type clothespins.

to groom and disbud for spring shows.

to keep high humidity.

CACTUS/SUCCULENT SOCIETY

Helen Claydon

Now is the time

to consider your winter watering program remembering that almost all desert types go without water December thru February, but water them if excessive shrinkage occurs. Remember that fixed general rules for watering do not always apply in southern California—so consider the plant and soil conditions.

to remember to gradually hold up on watering with beginning of winter and a cool place is ideal—45-50 degrees (F.).

to remember that too much watering or too high temperatures during the resting period is almost always fatal—one of the most common causes of failure among novice growers.

to remember that too much water in the soil during the resting period impairs root aeration, causing disease and rotting

to check against that troublesome, light-brown, circular pest, scales,which punctures the plant and sucks out fluids. Soapy water is a practical treatment as the scales are greasy.

to include a selection from the following as a lovely holiday gift: SUCCULENT PLANTS, by H. Jacobsen (Ernest Benn, London, 1956) Alphabetically describes solely succulents. SUCCULENTS for the AMATEUR, by J.R. Brown (Abbey Garden Press). Far less technical—more adaptable to everyday use. THE FLOWERING CACTUS, by Raymond Carlson (McGraw-Hill). Breathtaking photography.

DAHLIA SOCIETY

Mildred Middleton

Now is the time

to withhold water and fertilizer to let the plants go dormant.

to allow the plants to dry brown. When browned about twelve inches from the ground, cut off the stalks.

to leave the tubers in the ground to harden off unless the soil drains poorly—then roots should be lifted before the heavy rains.

to wash clumps and divide for storage leaving at least one eye in each division. Dry for a few hours, then apply sulphur to cuts and store in vermiculite or other medium out of weather.

EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY

George French

Now is the time

to prepare your epiphyllums for a fall rest. Give them a feeding before the first of December.

to check for snails and scale.

to check long branches and tie properly to prevent damage or breakage.

FUCHSIA SOCIETY

Penny Bunker

Now is the time

to still take tip cuttings in November; will take longer to root, but gives you new plants for spring plantings.

to cut down on watering as the weather becomes cooler.

to continue feeding, but perhaps only once a month during these months until plants begin to put out their new growth.

to keep plants clean, and to continue using insecticide.

to give a good mulch of redwood compost, or leaf mold to protect roots against any sudden cold. This will also lessen the need for watering. Water only to keep roots moist if it does not rain.

GERANIUM SOCIETY

Phil Bush

Now is the time

to cut back Lady Washingtons or Regals. Cut back ½ (one side) of the plant until new growth appears—then cut back the other half. DON'T drastically cut the entire plant at one time.

to continue to bait for snails and slugs.

IRIS SOCIETY

Art Day

Now is the time

to keep the iris garden free of weeds and insects. Remove dead leaves when they pull off easily. Aphids can winter-over under these leaves; spraying helps.

to move Pacific Coast Natives. Be sure new white roots are showing. This probably will be late in December. Water well until they are established.

to be sure to plant some bulbous iris; they give you lots of spring beauty. Plant the Dutch, English and Spanish as well as the reticulata types.

to feed the Japanese and Louisianas with liquid fish or acid type fertilizer. Give a well balanced organic fertilizer to bearded irises.

ROSE SOCIETY

Dee Thorson

Now is the time

to gradually start withholding water from roses to lull them into a dormant period.

to allow hips to form on bushes (another method to force dormancy).

to discontinue feeding program with fertilizers containing high nitrogen.

to keep garden free from all infested leaves that may harbor over-wintering eggs and spores.

to prepare new beds for bare root roses.

ORCHID SOCIETY

Lois Donahue

Now is the time

to continue low nitrogen fertilizer for cymbidiums—10-30-20.

to keep your orchids well groomed—taking old leaves off.

to check for scale and slugs.

to continue using 18-18-18 on catteleyas.

to ease up on the watering of cymbidiums—need to be kept damp but not wet.

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THE SIERRAS OF BAJA

Bill Gunther

THIRTY SIX hours is all you need. That is how long it took us during a weekend last month for a very unusual Baja trip which included the Meling Rancho, the new astronomic observatory, a closeup of the highest mountain in Baja, two different National Parks of Mexico, Laguna Hanson, the Sierra San Pedro Martir, and the Sierra de Juarez, not to mention closeup inspections of dozens of different species of highland plants of the area. If you too are willing to traverse rugged roads in isolated areas in order to see all these spectacular attractions, just superimpose the route which is indicated on this page onto your map of Baja, and follow it. Numbers on the route indicated on this page are keyed to numbers in this article.

It seems unbelievable that an area so close to San Diego as the Baja highlands, with all the attractions offered by the highlands, is practically unknown to tourists. One explanation for this anomaly is that the roads are poor. But that is just part of the reason. The biggest reason why many tourists don't take this route is that they don't have any means of knowing that the through route exists. A key portion of the route (the link from the Sierra San Pedro Martir to the Valle de Trinidad) is not shown on any road map of Baja which I have seen. This includes maps issued by various oil companies and maps issued by the automobile clubs, including AAA and the Automobile Association of Southern California. So if your own road map of Baja doesn't show a road in that area, don't be discouraged. Take the trip anyway. It really is extra fun to drive on a route which—according to the road maps—doesn't exist.

As a matter of prudence, before you leave on the trip get a Tourist Permit; they are free at the Mexican Counsulate's Office in San Diego. And get a Mexican auto insurance policy to cover the time you will be south of the border. Take along some food and some drink. If you have a friend who is a ham radio operator, ask him to get you overnight reservations, at the Meling Ranch by "phone patch". If you don't have such a friend, go anyway, but take along a sleeping bag just for contingency.

When departure time comes, if the weather is very stormy, of if there have been recent very heavy rains, postpone the trip. The mountain route is impassable during—and for a couple days after—very heavy precipitation (either rain or snow).

Leave San Diego as early on Saturday morning as you can manage. If you haven't yet driven the toll road (1) from Tijuana to Ensenada take it in preference to the free road. The breathtaking view of the ocean and surf from the precipitous shoreline cliffs is in itself worth the toll fee of about $2.50. Stop enroute to examine the coastal cacti, succulents, and chaparral in order to better compare them with the contrastingly different mountain species which you will see later on during your trip.

From Ensenada, continue south. Be sure to fill your gasoline tank to top capacity at Colnett (2). 6.8 miles south of Colnett take a left turn off the pavement onto the dirt road; this intersection (3) is marked by informal signs which say "Observatorio" "Mike's Sky Ranch" and "Rancho Meling".

The next 230 miles of your trip will be by unpaved road. A single lane. Whenever another vehicle approaches from the opposite direction along this road, one or another vehicle must get off the road to permit

passage. Sometimes this involves backing up to find a place where it is possible to get off the road. But all this really is no big problem—because you will encounter so extremely few vehicles. When we traversed those 230 miles (and that was on a September weekend) we met only seven vehicles coming in the opposite direction to ours, and we encountered no other vehicle going our way.

When you reach the intersection (4) which offers alternate routes to the Meling Ranch, take the southern most road. Local ranchers call it "the old road" or "the mountain road". It is not the best roadbed of the two routes, but it is the shortest, and by far the most scenic. Notice the beautiful silvery-white dudleya plants on the north-facing cliffs.

You will love the Meling Ranch (5); it is like something out of a storybook. It was established back in 1910 and has survived intact, with the same Meling family proprietorship, through all the subsequent Mexican revolutions and land reforms. It is primarily an operating cattle ranch, with an immense expanse of more than 10,000 acres. Very incidental to the ranching operation, the Meling Ranch has simple but comfortable accomodations for guests, with hot water baths and electric lights. The main lounge is wonderfully homey and rustic; so is the adjacent dining room where, when mealtime comes, guests are seated on benches alongside the big ranch table, while Ada Meling presides at the head position. The meals are bountiful, and they are served family style, with light of kerosene lamps and candles (in the dining room there is no electricity). Your bill for two meals and one night will be about $13.

Assuming you have arrived at the Meling Ranch by 3:00 p.m., you will have plenty of time for a round trip to the top of the nearby Sierras (6) before dinner. Don't miss this opportunity; it is a highlight of the whole trip. The road winds up to the eastern border of the Meling Ranch, which is the western border of the Sierra San Pedro Martir National Park. Admission to the park for an auto and two people is about $1.00. The entire area is heavily forested with pines and other high-mountain vegetation; many species of plants here merit special attention. The new observatory is about a mile beyond the highest public parking area. The walk to the observatory would be easy elsewhere, but up there the thin atmosphere of 10,000 feet leaves you breathless, so take it easy. From the top the view is as if from heaven. In good weather the Pacific Ocean sparkles in the west, the desert and the Gulf of California glisten in the east, and to the south rises spectacular Providence Peak, the highest point in Baja. Far northward, the tips of mountain peaks in the USA are visible, but none of our cities can be seen; they are completely obscured by their own smog.

There are no cities near the Sierra San Pedro Martir to foul the air and to make a nighttime glow of light. That is why the new observatory, with a relatively small telescope, can see some details in the heavens which are lost to the star gazers on our own Mount Palomar.

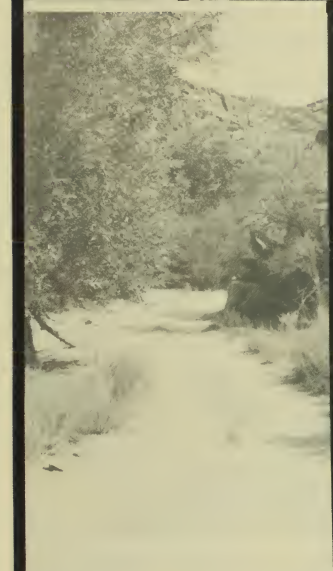
After a ranch house breakfast the next morning, proceed to Mike's Sky Ranch (7), and then follow roadsigns over the "non-existing" road to Trinidad (8). You can have lunch at one of the cafes there; tacos are 10 cents each. And be sure to fill up your gas tank before heading up the hill on the road which is marked "to Ensenada". Follow this road until you reach the dusty little adobe town which bears the grandiose name "Heroes de la Independencia" (9). (One some maps the town is called "Llano Colorado") Here, you take a right turnoff in the center of the town. This turnoff is unmarked, but local townsfolk call it the "Camino de los Caballos" which translates to the "horse road". The horse road takes you all the way to the Constitucion National Park and to Laguna Hanson, and it shows up plainly on most Baja road maps, but it is not heavily traveled, and it is not well marked with direction signs, so it is prudent to verify periodically from ranchers that you remain on the road to Laguna Hanson.

In areas which have recently been burned over by forest fires, unique maroon colored plants which resemble football-sized puffs of smoke abound; they are known as "fireplants". Seeds of these plants are stimulated to sprout by the heat of forest fires; they thus trigger themselves to sprout into a newly burned over environment which gives them the open space and the sunlight which they need. Bring a few of these plants back with you; they are everlasting and they are beautiful for use in dried floral arrangements.

If you take a photograph of the town of Aserradero (10), and later show it to friends, they will not believe that it actually is located in Baja. It is a lumbermill town in the high pine forest; all the buildings are frame in the style of the U.S. frontier west; and nothing about it looks even remotely Mexican except the people.

The Constitucion National Park recently has been expanded to include Laguna Hanson (11), which is famed as the only fresh water lake in all of Baja. But this year, because of the drought, Laguna Hanson is dry, and Baja has no fresh water lake at all. Even though the lake is dry, the scenery in the area is glorious; massive rocky ridges protrude spectacularly from the pine forest. Admission to this park is free.

You can reach Tecate (12) in time for dinner, after which you can cross into the U.S. at the Tecate border station, and return to San Diego via Route 94. Along that highway, for miles and miles, are many large colonies of the perennial Matilija poppy. If you see those poppies in full bloom they will remain in your memory as a fitting climax to an unusual and memorable trip to the highlands of Baja.



THINGS TO SEE IN THE SIERRAS OF BAJA
(ALONG THE ROUTE SHOWN ON PAGE 184)

upper left: The bloom of the Myrtillocactus is beautiful, but the thorns are vicious. This specimen was blooming alongside the road near Meling Rancho during the month of September.

upper right: The Echinocereus, or hedgehog cactus, ususlly has round stems like those at top of photo. But occasionally a mutation causes some stems to widen into a crested shape, as has happened to two in this clump. When this occurs the clump becomes a collector's item.

center left: This is a portion of the road which, according to most maps, doesn't exist. We hasten to admit that other parts of the road are more rocky and steeper and less inviting than is this attractively inviting pastoral stretch of roadway.

center right: This view of Mike's Sky Ranch, and a bit of the main road which approaches it from the south, also shows the forested San Rafael Valley. A creek, stocked with rainbow trout, flows down this valley the year around.

lower left: Mike Douglas, of UCSD, went along on the Baja trip. Here he poses under a grotesque group of snakey 30-foot long stems of the cactus Machaerocereus gummosus in a desert forest near the road to the Meling Rancho.

lower right: This piece of modernistic artwork is neither sculptured nor molded. It grew. It is the tip of the bloomstalk (in bud stage) of the Agave shawii, one of Baja's most common plants. The Agave is not a cactus; it is a succulent member of the lily family.

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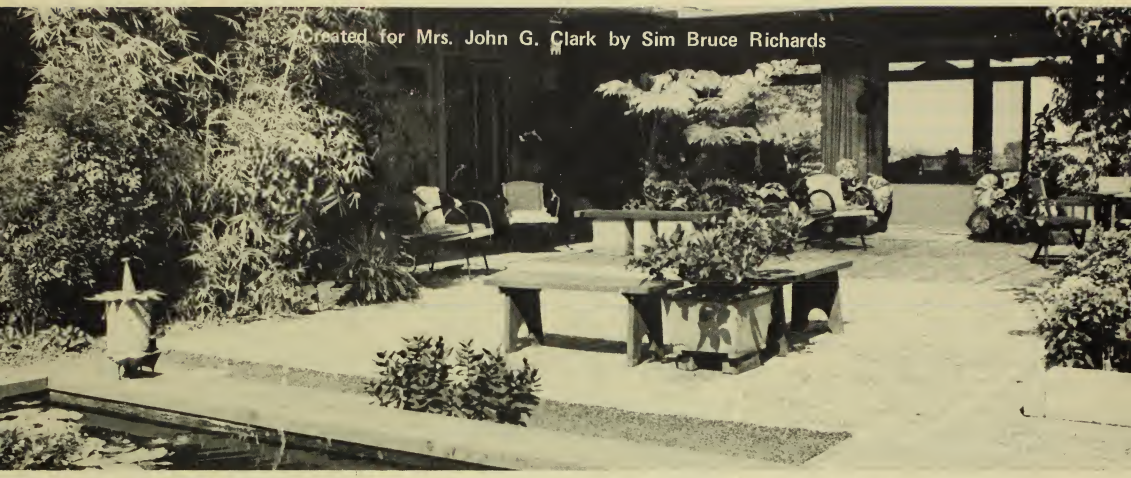

The rare plants and exotic trees add an air of tranquility to the contemporary oriental style of this fabulous La Jolla Shores home. Twice featured in the "Home and Garden" section of the San Diego Union, this five bedroom split level home is a veritable showplace. The lower floor, which contains two of the bedrooms plus a second living room and kitchenette, opens onto a backyard patio shaded by an enormous African Tulip Tree *(Spathodea campanulata)* --- just perfect for easy entertaining or perfect for independent teenagers.

$ 119,500

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